

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ARLAY:PDW

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

NEA/AFN:MWILEY

NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS

NEA/IAI:WBSMITH

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

S/CCT:MR. FEAREY

NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S -RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 159778

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF COLONEL MORGAN IN BEIRUT

1. SEPTTEL BRINGS ADDRESSEES UP TO DATE ON ABDUCTION OF
U.S. COLONEL ERNEST R. MORGAN BY LEFT-WING GROUP IN BEIRUT.

2. FOR CAIRO, RABAT, TUNIS, ALGIERS, JIDDA: UNLESS YOU
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SEE OBJECTION, YOU SHOULD DISCUSS MATTER URGENTLY (DEADLINE

SET BY CAPTORS EXPIRES 2100 JULY 9 BEIRUT TIME) WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL. DESCRIBE SITUATION, WITHOUT GETTING INTO DETAILS OF CONTACTS WITH LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. STATE THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AS HOST GOVERNMENT HAS ASSUMED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURING COL. MORGAN'S SAFE RELEASE. WE WISH TO DO ALL WE CAN TO SUPPORT GOL IN THIS EFFORT, AND IN THIS SENSE ARE CONSULTING RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTRIES TO SUGGEST THAT THEY ALSO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT LEND SUPPORT. ACTION OF THIS SMALL GROUP IN BEIRUT, IF COL. MORGAN IS NOT RELEASED UNHARMED, COULD AFFECT ARAB IMAGE THROUGHOUT WORLD.

3. FYI: WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO PROPOSE ANY SPECIFIC ACTIONS, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVING LINES TO OR INFLUENCE ON GROUPS OPERATING IN BEIRUT WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN INTERESTS OF SECURING MORGAN'S SAFE RELEASE. WE ARE AWARE THAT EGYPTIANS PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO BRING END TO CIVIL VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT, AND APPROACH TO THEM SHOULD PRESUMABLY BE TAILORED ACCORDINGLY.

FOR DAMASCUS: WE ARE GRATIFIED AT ROLE SHIHABI IS PLAYING. PLEASE LET HIM KNOW THIS. WE HOPE SYRIANS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO HELP EFFECT MORGAN'S RELEASE, GOAL WHICH IT SEEMS TO US IS IN INTERESTS OF ALL RESPONSIBLE ARAB GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER

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